political activities. The relevant orders were brought to the notice of the teachers who participated in Walluvanad Taluk Teachers' Conference and they were made aware of the consequences of any violation of the Government Orders.

(b) Does not arise.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Sir, some misrepresentation has been made to the Minister by the department. The Hon. Minister replied that the teachers participated in the Walluvanad Taluk Teachers' Conference. May I know from him whether participation by teachers in an organization of the teachers themselves, which has been recognized by the Government, is a political offence?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : If they had confined themselves to the affairs of the conference, no notice would have been taken. But we received reports that they indulged in political activities in the guise of participating in the teachers' organization. They were warned that action would be taken if they indulged in political activities. But no action was taken.

Children employed in industries

* 2693 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to reduce the number of children employed in the industries of this State since Rege Committee of 1948 findings?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Labour Investigation Committee of which Sri D. V. Rege was the Chairman was appointed by the Government of India in 1944. It made investigations into the labour conditions in several industries and submitted its reports to the Government of India. There is no special report regarding the employment of children in industries. The employment of young persons in industries is regulated by the Factories Act, 1948, the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, and the Employment of Children Act, 1938, and these Acts are being enforced by the Labour Department.

Tirur bridge

* 2694 Q.—SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Malabar District Board has requested the Government to accord sanction for constructing the Tirur bridge on Tirur-Tanur road;

(b) if so, when, and the estimated cost of the work; and

(c) whether the Government have accorded their sanction?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The President, District Board, Malabar, addressed Government in the matter on 6th January and 13th March 1955. The estimated cost of the work is reported to be Rs. 1,54,000.

(c) No, Sir. The President, District Board, has been informed that the work cannot be sanctioned for execution in the current year (1955–56) under Grants-in-aid relating to the Post-war Road Development works, as the grant available to the district board will hardly be sufficient for the works already sanctioned and that the work will, however, be considered for inclusion in the Second Five-Year Plan of Road Development.

Supply of Fort St. George Gazette *to Munsifs' Courts*

* 2695 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the *Fort St. George Gazette* is supplied to all the District Munsifs' Courts in the State;

(b) if not, why not; and

(c) whether the District Munsif's Court in Gudalur is supplied with the Gazette regularly?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As a measure of war economy the supply of the *Fort St. George Gazette* to certain District Munsifs' Courts was discontinued. The Gazettes supplied to District Courts are circulated to the District Munsifs' Courts also.

(c) The Tahsildar, Gudalur, is exercising the powers of District Munsif at Gudalur. He is making use of the Gazette supplied to him as Tahsildar and no separate copy is supplied.

Amendments to the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act

* 2696 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that the rules under the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949, were amended in March 1955;

(b) if so, whether the Government will place a copy of the same on the table of the House; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amendments have been published in the Rules Supplement to Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 30th March and 13th April 1955, copies of which have been supplied to the Members of the House.

(c) The amendments were considered necessary for the effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

School-going Harijan children

* 2697 *Q.*—SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the percentage of Harijan children of school-going age studying in elementary, Basic and